

NEW YORK POST
22 APRIL 1983

POST
EXCLUSIVE

Entire CIA team died in Beirut bombing

By NILES LATHEM

Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON — The entire team of CIA agents stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut was wiped out by the 300-pound terror bomb that exploded in front of the building last Monday. The Post has learned.

Top U.S. intelligence officials told The Post last night that at least four U.S. diplomats listed as dead were in fact on "cover assignments" for the CIA.

The revelations follow the announcement earlier this week that top CIA Mideast analyst Robert Ames had been killed in the blast.

The sources said that even the CIA's station chief was killed.

The CIA was also dealt a huge setback because the bomb destroyed top

secret files, some communications and other vital functions of the CIA's "station."

The CIA and the entire U.S. intelligence community — which suffered its greatest single death toll since the Vietnam War — was reportedly in a state of shock and was taking immediate steps to set up another station, which must watch one of the most volatile countries in the world.

"Aside from the loss of innocent lives this is definitely the biggest disaster of the bombing," commented one top Rea-

gan administration official last night.

Publically the CIA has identified only one agent killed in the aftermath of the horror bombing.

Ames, 49, was the CIA's top Middle East Analyst.

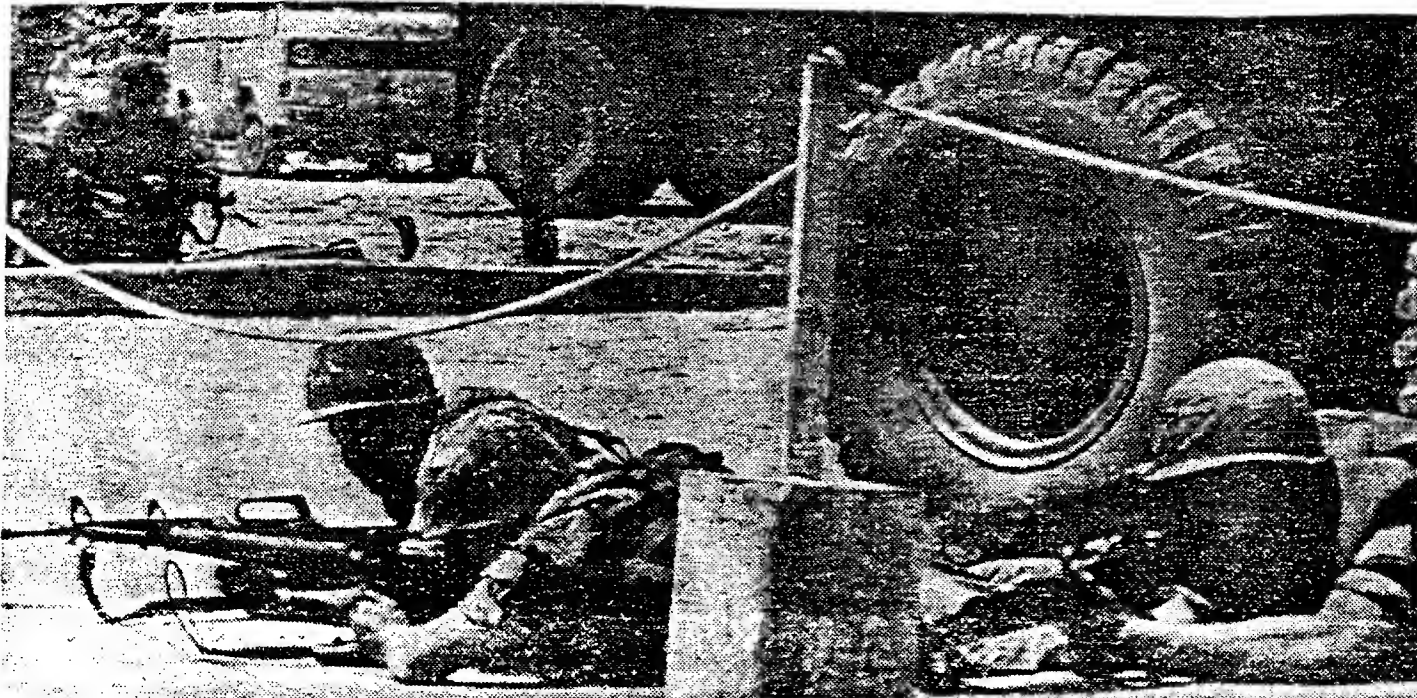
The first news that there were more than one agent killed came from Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz), who introduced a resolution on the Senate floor earlier this week expressing condolences for the "people of the intelligence community" who lost their lives.

Top U.S. intelligence

sources were unwilling to give out the names of the other CIA agents killed because of strict laws forbidding disclosure of the identities of U.S. agents abroad.

They also would not give exact numbers of agents who were stationed at the embassy.

STAT



United Press International Photo

Marines guarding bombed-out U.S. Embassy in Beirut aim M-16 rifles after 200 of them dove for cover at the sound of Lebanese soldiers firing at car that ran a roadblock yesterday. The incident passed within minutes.